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MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and of the  
ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1956

L. Spencer Stephens,  
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt,  
Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Public  
Health Inspector

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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1956

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Mr. F. B. Jacomb, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council

Mr. H. Ballard.

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Miss A. M. Enderby

Public Health Staff of the Authority

L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.F.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.  
Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

J. D. Blakeway, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.  
Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Engineer  
and Surveyor.

E. J. Turner  
Housing Manager and Architectural Assistant.

K. J. Cottrell  
Clerical Assistant.

Miss S. M. Hall  
Shorthand Typist and Clerk

H. Dew  
Assistant Rodent Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956

Public Health Department,  
1, The Tything,  
Worcester.

August, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Martley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1956. The report is divided into the usual sections and comments have been included on points of interest under each heading.

Examination of the statistical data presented does elicit some interesting points. The standardised birth and death rates are within normal limits, but the Infant Mortality Rate (53.2 per 1000 live births) is much higher than it should be. Taking an average over the last five years, the rate for Martley Rural District (38.8) is considerably above that for England and Wales (25.7). These figures may fluctuate widely from year to year where the numbers involved are small, but a figure approaching that for the country as a whole should be arrived at in this manner. The Infant Mortality Rate is now also accepted as an international yardstick by which varying social conditions may be measured in different parts of the world. The figures for the British Isles are fairly low compared with many other countries but do not compare with the Scandinavian Countries where a high standard of health is reached. The index is related not only to the standard of medical care provided but also to the conditions under which the infants concerned are born and nurtured. Standards of housing, sanitation and water supply may vitally affect an infant during its first year of life and careful consideration must be given to whether these conditions cannot be improved.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the Register has steadily increased from 60 in 1950 to 77 in 1956, despite all efforts to delete cases which have recovered or left the district. Although the number of new notifications every year are not numerous a reason must be sought for this. It is a recognised fact that spread of infection in this disease is highest amongst those in close contact with the patient (i.e. relatives and lodgers in the same house). The environment in which the patient is living may also adversely affect the course of the disease. Fortunately, many cases on the Register have already been rehoused but there is still that hard core of cases who occupy sub-standard property, caravans or hop-pickers barracks and move from place to place taking their infection with them. This problem can only be solved by providing more suitable accommodation and taking stringent measures to control the siting and use of temporary dwellings.

With these points in mind it is worth considering the Council's building programme (page 18). Fourteen houses were erected at Sandhampton during the year and these provided accommodation for some well deserving cases, but it is regrettable that the rate of building could not have been maintained at the post-war average of 35 houses per annum. Of the 56 private dwellings erected the majority were at Rushwick providing for city residents and only a few in the remote parts of the Rural District. If the ten year programme for slum clearance is going to be carried out (22 demolitions a year), then houses will have to be provided to replace these losses. To date, a limited number of houses have been dealt with as they became vacant, but these numbers are likely to diminish steadily. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government booklet



on "Moving from the Slums" does stress the importance of successful housing management. It does seem reasonable to allocate casual lettings (of older Council Houses) to slum clearance cases and provide new dwellings for general needs. If this policy is accepted then it should be coupled with the introduction of a differential rent scheme. The subsidy will still be available for the new dwellings and less difficulty will be encountered in bridging the gap between private and Council house rents once the 1957 Rent Act has become operative. I can see no reason why a small burden should not be borne by the general ratepayer in respect of housing particularly if it is in the interests of public health. After all, heavy burdens are being carried in respect of water and sewage from which great benefits are being reaped. Should not the agricultural community in the Rural District also reap the benefit of more permanent homes and healthier living conditions for their children?

It is most encouraging to report that excellent progress has been made with the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme (page 7) and with the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes at Broadheath and Clifton-on-Teme (page 8). The effect of the Minister's intention to declare Martley Rural District a "Specified Area" for milk supplies is discussed on page 12.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Mr. Pratt and all the members of his Department for their most valuable assistance during the year. I would also thank you, Mr. Chairman, and all the members of the Council for their kind consideration.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. Spencer Stephens

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Rural District of Martley, comprising 52,823 acres is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the West of the City of Worcester. The River Teme runs through the district dividing it into two parts. The chief industry is agriculture and the district is one of the most important fruit and hopgrowing areas in the country. Each year the hop picking season attracts large numbers of people to the district. These come mainly from the Black Country.

Vital statistics for the year are given in the following tables:-

Area in Acres ... ..	52,823
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1956) according to Rate Books ... ..	3,701
Rateable Value (1st April, 1956)...	£83,671
Sum represented by one penny rate..	£347
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1956)...	11,650

### VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate ... ..	86	76	162
Illegitimate.. ... ..	1	6	7
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population...	...	...	14.50
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population..	...	...	15.08
Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period ...	...	...	15.7
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate ... ..	3	1	4
Illegitimate.. ... ..	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births . ... ..	...	...	23.1
Rate per 1,000 England and Wales total live and still births..	...	...	23.0
<u>Deaths</u>			
From all causes ... ..	72	52	124
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population...	...	...	10.64
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population..	...	...	10.21
Rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	...	11.7
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>			
Legitimate ... ..	6	3	9
Illegitimate.. ... ..	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births..	...	...	53.2
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	...	23.8
<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</u>			
Legitimate ... ..	4	2	6
Illegitimate.. ... ..	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births...	...	...	35.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	...	16.9

Causes of Death as Classified by the Registrar General

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	1	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	-	1
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.. ... ..	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis. ... ..	-	-
Measles. ... ..	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	-	-
Cancer of Stomach... ..	1	1
Cancer of Lung ... ..	3	-
Cancer of Breast ... ..	-	-
Cancer of Uterus ... ..	-	1
Cancer of all other sites. ... ..	9	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	-	1
Diabetes ... ..	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	16	12
Coronary disease, angina.. ... ..	9	3
Hypertension with heart disease. ... ..	2	1
Other heart disease. ... ..	7	13
Other circulatory disease. ... ..	2	2
Influenza ... ..	2	-
Pneumonia ... ..	3	3
Bronchitis ... ..	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum... ..	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis... ..	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate... ..	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. ... ..	-	-
Congenital malformations.. ... ..	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	10	6
Motor vehicle accidents... ..	1	-
All other accidents. ... ..	3	-
Suicide. ... ..	-	-
Homicide and operations of war.. ... ..	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	72	52
	<hr/>	<hr/>



## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### (a) Laboratory Services

Laboratory services are provided at laboratories situated at the County Buildings and the Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

#### (b) Ambulance Service

This service is provided by the County Council. The ambulance station which serves the district is situated in Worcester. The Hospital Car Service, manned in most cases by volunteers, is used to supplement the ambulance service.

Patients suffering from infectious disease are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

#### (c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

This service is provided by the County Council. In most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District Nurse/Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. Nine District Nurse/Midwives are working in the District.

#### (d) Hospitals

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Kidderminster.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases can be admitted to hospitals at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated in Worcester, Malvern and Knightwick.

#### (e) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The district is served by the following clinics:-

##### Ante-Natal Clinics

Shirehall, Worcester

Open on the first and third Saturday in the month at 9. a.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport

Open every Tuesday in the month at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster

Open every Monday in the month at 2 p.m.

##### Infant Welfare Clinics

Shirehall, Worcester

Open on the first and third Saturday in the month at 9 a.m.

Parish Hall, Hallow

Open on the second and fourth Thursday in the month at 2 p.m.

Club Room, Bell Inn, Broadheath

Open on first and third Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Section B - (Contd.)

Infant Welfare Clinics

Chantry School, Martley

Open on second Wednesday in the month at 2 p.m.

Village Hall, Alfrick

Open on the fourth Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Clifton-on-Teme

Open on the last Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Leigh

Open on the second Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Great Witley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Little Witley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Shrawley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 2 p.m.

Parish Room, Holt

Open on the fourth Tuesday every third month at 3 p.m.

(f) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria can be carried out, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor or at the County Council clinics.

The following inoculations were done during the year:-

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year - 149

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year - 98

Vaccination

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year - 112

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year - 9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47, AND AMENDMENT ACT 1951

These sections place on district Medical Officers of Health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of persons who are in need of care and attention.

One elderly gentleman was admitted to welfare accommodation at Evesham during the year. Two old ladies were provided with domestic help in their own homes. One of them who is nearly blind, was provided with a wireless set, blankets etc., through the County Council.



## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water Supply

Very good progress was made with Part I of the Comprehensive Water Scheme during the year. By December it was reported that main laying was virtually complete, some 49 miles of distribution mains having been laid in the parishes of Astley, Shrawley, Little Witley, Wichenford, Grimley, Hallow, Broadheath, Martley, Broadwas, Doddenham and Rushwick. An extension for the village of Holt was considered and approved, but placed in Part II of the Scheme. The construction of the 400,000 gallon storage reservoir at Ockeridge was completed, as also was the smaller 110,000 gallon reservoir at Collins Green. Work on the pumphouses, both at the Astley Boreholes, and Martley Booster Station, was held up by a shortage of bricks but the foundations were laid and arrangements made for the supply of the submersible pumps and motors.

Detailed consideration was also given to the provision of an adequate sewage disposal scheme for Astley in view of the danger of pollution of the underground water supply from the houses in the vicinity. It was pointed out by the Consulting Engineer that sewers dealing with the drainage from the Sandhampton Housing Estate were not entirely satisfactory and, in any case, the ground in that particular locality had no protective blanket of superficial clay. The lie of the land also necessitates the provision of pumping equipment for sewage which could most conveniently be situated within the Council's site for the Waterworks.

It was also agreed to erect a pair of cottages within the curtilage of the Waterworks as it was more convenient for the pumping attendants to live on the site. It was anticipated that it would be some time before a supply of water could be offered to consumers, main laying being so much ahead of siteworks, but instructions were given to the Surveyor to prepare a scheme for tapping the mains so that as many private consumers as possible would be in a position to receive a supply sometime in 1957.

By September 1956, serious thought was being given to obtaining approval from the Ministry to the commencement of Part II of the Scheme. A brief survey was made of the parishes to be covered and a report submitted to the Ministry showing the number of bacteriological and chemical samples taken by the Department in the last five years. The results showed that of 110 samples taken, 74 (67% of cases) were unfit for drinking purposes. With the need to extend water supplies to areas where Council houses are most needed it is hoped that the scheme will be proceeded with without interruption.

Considerable discussion arose out of the Minister's policy with regard to the regrouping of water undertakings. Having sent representatives to meetings in Birmingham and Worcester at which the other authorities covered by the Pollock Report expressed their views, it was decided that the interests of the Martley District would best be served by representation on the Board likely to be formed for the North-West Worcestershire Water Area.

## Section C - (Contd.)

### 2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes

The new Sewage Disposal Works at Clifton-on-Teme was completed in July and members of the Council visited the site. The Works replaced an existing system of land irrigation and it was not necessary to lay additional sewers in the village, although a number of householders served by pail closets were persuaded to connect. The disposal plant provides for preliminary screening, settlement in twin sedimentation tanks, and treatment through one percolating filter and one humus tank. An adequate area is provided for sludge drying and there is a separate tank capacity for stormwater.

A start was made on the Broadheath Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme in May, despite the fact that the grants anticipated from the Ministry and the County Council were not forthcoming. It was felt that conditions at the existing works were bad enough to justify this action particularly as a considerable number of new houses had been connected to the sewer in the last two years. The Works are situated in Upper Broadheath, near the Common, and the sewers which have been laid cater for additional properties in that vicinity. By the end of the year most of the major constructional work had been completed and all that remained was the installation of the pumping equipment and general tidying up on the site.

Mention has already been made of the urgent need for a sewage disposal works at Astley. Planning permission has already been obtained and an outline scheme drawn up. Other areas where drainage problems are acute are Grimley, Bransford, Shrawley, Great Witley (Abberley Hill area) and Leigh Sinton. A temporary system of land irrigation is being provided to deal with the existing drainage at Leigh Sinton. With the introduction throughout the District of a comprehensive scheme for the supply of piped water, these problems are bound to become more and more urgent.

The following table gives particulars of the water supply and methods of sewage disposal in the district:-



PARISH	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g. wells, springs.		Sewerage and Sewage Disposal				
	Direct to Houses	By means of stand-pipe									
	No. of Dwelling houses	Popu- lation	No. of Dwelling houses	Popu- lation	No. of Dwelling houses	Popu- lation	No. of Dwellings connected to public sewer	Popu- lation served	No. of Houses with		
								Pails	Cesspits etc.	Private install- ations.	
Abberley	-	-	-	-	151	483	11	35	67	57	16
Alfrick	-	-	-	-	125	401	-	-	60	45	20
Astley	-	-	-	-	370	1130	-	-	269	71	30
Bransford	3	10	-	-	83	266	-	-	58	28	-
Braddheath	-	-	-	-	267	864	66	227	129	64	8
Bradwas	-	-	-	-	85	276	-	-	43	35	5
Clifton-on-Teme	83	267	10	35	38	122	74	238	47	9	1
Cotheridge	-	-	-	-	54	174	-	-	11	22	21
Dodderham	-	-	-	-	72	232	-	-	49	21	2
Grimley	-	-	-	-	194	623	-	-	135	60	1
Hallow	197	690	-	-	139	447	235	748	71	21	9
Hillhampton	-	-	-	-	33	106	-	-	19	8	6
Holt	-	-	-	-	105	337	-	-	57	25	23
Kenswick	-	-	-	-	9	29	-	-	1	8	-
Knightwick	-	-	-	-	38	121	-	-	33	5	-
Leigh	4	13	-	-	288	915	30	95	207	51	4
Lulsley	-	-	-	-	41	132	-	-	33	8	-
Martley	-	-	-	-	278	885	57	174	162	54	5
St. John Courty	75	240	-	-	184	590	170	525	63	24	2
Lower Sapey	3	9	-	-	45	143	-	-	30	9	9
Shelsley Beauchamp	-	-	-	-	57	184	-	-	44	13	-
Shelsley Kings	-	-	-	-	74	238	-	-	66	7	1
Shelsley Walsh	-	-	-	-	13	42	-	-	11	2	-
Shrawley	-	-	-	-	138	443	-	-	110	27	1
Suckley	-	-	-	-	157	503	-	-	115	22	20
Wichenford	-	-	-	-	124	394	-	-	84	17	23
Witley, Great	-	-	-	-	116	372	34	106	49	31	2
Witley, Little	-	-	-	-	58	184	-	-	31	11	16



## SECTION D

### HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out in the district during the year:-

#### Number of new houses erected during the year

(1)	by the Local Authority ... ..	14
(2)	by other bodies or persons ... ..	56

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Acts) ...	33
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	75
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under One above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932... ..	20
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	20
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	18
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... ..	13

#### 2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... ..	8
--	---

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers

A	<u>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	by owners ... ..	Nil
	by local authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
B	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.. ... ..	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	by owners ... ..	2
	by local authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

SECTION D - (Cont'd)

C Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	8
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ..	8
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings accepted ... ..	Nil

D Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	Nil
	Closing Orders under L.G. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 ... ..	3
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... ..	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) - Overcrowding

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of this year	} Not known
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein... ..	
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	Nil
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases... ..	38
	(iii) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved. ... ..	Nil



## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The new Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation on the 1st January 1956. The 1955 Act was mainly a consolidating act, particularly in respect of the law relating to slaughterhouses, but also incorporated some important new legislation on food and drugs.

The Regulations lay down certain requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises, the hygienic handling of food and the personal cleanliness of food handlers. They also replace certain sections of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, in relation to the transportation of meat.

In accordance with Section 41 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in conjunction with the Minister of Health, declared Martley Rural District to be a Specified Area (w.e.f. 1st October 1956) in which only specially designated milks could be sold. This meant that no raw milk could be sold unless it had come from an attested herd and bore the designation "tuberculin-tested". This undoubtedly will reduce the danger of bovine tuberculosis still further but it should be pointed out that the cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in the Register were considerably reduced before this measure was introduced, the reason being the rising consumption of heat-treated milk. There is one serious loophole, however, which is the free supply of undesignated milk to the families of herdsmen and other farm workers by the farmer as part of their terms of employment. Educational measures seem to fail in these cases as it is against the laws of human nature to "look a gift horse in the mouth". Legislation should be introduced to deal with the problem.

Raw "tuberculin-tested" milk may also be infected with *Brucella abortus* which causes a serious illness in children and recurring bouts of fever in adults. A Notice was served on one owner under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, requesting him to send the milk for heat-treatment, and subsequently two cows were removed from the herd, suffering from the disease.

Routine meat inspection at the two licenced slaughterhouses within the District was carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

The following table shows the amount of meat inspected:-



SECTION E - (Cont'd.)

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	84	2	2	235	86	-
Number inspected	84	2	2	235	86	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	-	2	-	-	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	-	100	-	-	4.65	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.14	-	-	-	-	-

## SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease which occurred in the district during the year:-

	Under 1	1 -	3 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	25 -	65 -	Total cases Notified
1. Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
3. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid.B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	2	-	-	1	-	4	4	11
7. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
8. Enccephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Measles (ex. Rubella)	2	5	13	24	2	-	-	-	46
10. Whooping Cough	3	8	9	21	-	-	1	-	42
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
13. Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	6
14. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1956

Age Period	New cases				Deaths +			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	1	-	2	1	-	-	-

+ Compiled from the Tuberculosis Register and Local Registrar's Death Returns

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register at the end of the year

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Annual Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1950	33	27	15	18	93
1951	34	28	16	18	96
1952	37	33	13	15	98
1953	34	36	12	13	95
1954	27	41	11	11	90
1955	31	42	9	11	93
1956	36	41	9	13	99

## B.C.G. Vaccination

Worcestershire County Council started a scheme for the preventive inoculation of all children leaving school. The majority of parents agree to have their children done, and it may be said that the scheme has met with considerable success. This is a valuable protective measure against tuberculosis.



MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,  
1, The Tything,  
Worcester.

October, 1957.

To the Rural District Council of Martley

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the tenth Annual Report on the work of my Department as related to the administration of the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

As from the 1st February 1956, the responsibility for the design and construction of new dwellings, the supervision of all building work, the management and repair of Council houses, the direction of all manual employees and the control of all stores and vehicles were added to the duties of the Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The responsibilities of the Council in maintaining the essential services which they now provide are increasing annually. The provision of additional plant, and the gradual deterioration through age of existing plant and property adds to the difficulty of efficient maintenance; the staff and manual workers willingly co-operate to carry out any type of work in an emergency but the scattered nature of the district often renders prompt and economical attention extremely difficult.

On page 20 problems of repair and maintenance of the houses now owned by the Council are discussed; it is of the utmost importance that external painting and repair should be carried out at regular intervals but this is not possible at the present time owing to the small amount of money available from the Housing Repair Fund for this type of work. The policy of allocating for contract painting only that sum which remains as a surplus of the Housing Repair Fund must be revised as a matter of urgency if the Council are not to face a very expensive programme of external decoration and repair in the near future.

The progress of Part I of the Comprehensive Water Scheme continued satisfactorily during the year and arrangements were made for the eventual handing over of the plant and mains to the Council; these arrangements are detailed on page 24 of the report.

The problems arising from drainage disposal following the provision of mains water are discussed on page 22. In February, the Government announced a continuation of the policy of restricting capital expenditure and this, together with the reduced amount of assistance by way of grant which would now appear to be given, is likely to result in a heavy additional expenditure to the Council if the schemes now proposed are carried out. The majority of the parishes to be sewered are likely to present little technical difficulty and, in order to reduce capital cost to a minimum, the schemes will have to be designed on the most economical lines consistent with efficiency.

I should like to express appreciation of the assistance and consideration afforded to me by the Chairmen and members of the various committees and of the co-operation of all members of the staff in my Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

A. L. PRATT.

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

# 1. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

The duties delegated to the Council by the County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act continued to be carried out during the year. One "difference of opinion" between the Council and the County Planning Officer, relating to the erection of a prefabricated bungalow at Rushwick, was resolved by the County Planning Committee in favour of this Council. An earlier "difference of opinion" relating to the erection of a dwelling in Rushwick was resolved in favour of the County Planning Officer and, arising from the hearing by the County Planning Committee, the Planning Committee of this Council expressed very strong dissatisfaction with the procedure adopted in such cases. Discussions took place between members of the two committees but no change in procedure was agreed by the County Planning Committee.

The following appeals against decisions of the Council were made during the year:-

- (a) Refusal to permit the erection of a dwelling at Broadheath Common. The appeal was allowed by the Minister.
- (b) Refusal to permit the erection of six bungalows at Hallow. The Committee's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (c) Refusal to permit the erection of a dwelling at Bransford. The Committee's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (d) Refusal to permit erection of farmhouse at Broadheath. The Committee's decision was upheld by the Minister.
- (e) Refusal to permit roadside fruit stall at Astley. The Committee's decision was upheld by the Minister.

Few cases of unauthorised development were reported and in only one case was enforcement action necessary; following this action the siting of several caravans and sheds on land at Little Witley was discontinued.

Details of applications to develop are given in tabular form below:-

	Plans for new con- struction	Outline appli- cations	Change of use of land and buildings	Total
Brought forward from 1955	2	6	2	10
Received during 1956	88	55	24	167
Total applications	90	61	26	177
Applications approved	85	26	17	128
Applications refused	3	28	6	37
Applications withdrawn	-	5	1	6
Applications outstanding	2	2	2	6
Total	90	61	26	177



Applications under Building Byelaws

Brought forward from 1955	-	1	
Received during 1956		120	
			121
Applications approved		118	
Applications refused		-	
Applications withdrawn		-	
Applications outstanding		3	
			121

2. HOUSING

Provision of Housing Accommodation

	Council Houses	Private Houses			Total
		Min. of Wks. licence	Subsidy	Others	
No. of houses under construction 1.1.56	14	1	-	29	44
No. of houses completed & occupied during 1956	14	-	1	55	70
No. of houses under construction 31.12.56	-	1	-	29	30

(a) By the Council

As will be seen from the above table 14 new Council houses were completed during the year at Astley and consideration was given to the building of small bungalows in other parishes of the district to relieve under-occupied houses. One site was chosen on which it was intended to erect Bailey Stratton type bungalows but the County Planning Committee would not approve this type of construction. Tenders were invited for traditional bungalows and the Council were informed that, on the basis of the lowest tender, the economic rent of these dwellings would range between 35/4d. and 40/- per week depending on the type of subsidy which would be attracted. These rents were considered to be beyond the means of the type of tenants for whom the bungalows were designed and the Council decided to defer consideration on the provision of any new dwellings for a period of six months.

With the increase in the interest rate and the lowering of subsidy on houses built for general need, it would appear impossible to erect houses on small sites at rents which can be afforded by elderly people or those re-housed from slum property. In a scattered rural district the average income of people for whom the Council propose to erect houses is much lower than in an industrial area and their capacity to pay rent is therefore reduced.



A further difficulty is being experienced in finding sites which have water and sewerage facilities in areas where houses are needed; it has been found uneconomic to construct "on-site" works for these services and it is the policy of the Council to combine village schemes with new housing sites wherever possible.

(b) By Private Enterprise

Of the 56 new private houses completed and occupied during the year 36 were situated on a private housing estate adjoining the Worcester City boundary. Difficulty is still being experienced by private developers in acquiring sites and this fact is borne out by the speed at which cottages subject to a demolition order are bought in order to obtain the site; 5 new dwellings were erected on such sites during the year.

The following table shows the units of accommodation provided during the past nine years:-

Year	Council Houses	Private Houses				Total
		Min. of Works Licence	Subsidy	Private	Conversions	
1948	51	-	-	25	8	84
1949	21	-	-	11	-	32
1950	34	1	4	12	2	53
1951	35	2	3	3	4	47
1952	6	2	9	7	8	32
1953	36	4	2	21	-	63
1954	34	1	1	32	1	69
1955	36	39	1	6	3	85
1956	14	-	1	55	3	73
Total	267	49	21	172	29	538

Improvement and Conversion Grants

As will be seen from the table given below, the number of applications for grants remained fairly constant, as did the average grant per house.

Tenders submitted with applications continued to be high and applicants had difficulty in many cases in obtaining builders to carry out the work. This resulted in a considerable amount of work having to be carried out in checking applications and estimating the cost of carrying out individual works.

With the advent of the Council's mains water supply in several parishes it is anticipated that the number of applications will increase during the next year or so.

The number of individual dwellings forming the subject of formal applications since 1950 are given below:-

Year	Rec'vd	Withdrawn	Refused	Approved	Out-stand- ing.	Completed	Amount of Grant £
1950	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1951	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
1952	1	-	1	-	-	1	299
1953	10	4	1	5	-	-	-
1954	21	-	1	17	-	11	2,920
1955	41	5	3	36	-	28	7,372
1956	36	-	1	33	2	22	5,102
Total	111	9	8	92	2	62	15,693

Average grant per house - £239

The total cost to the Council of completed improvements to 62 houses, based on 25% of the grants given, is £3,923 or £63 per house.

#### Council House Maintenance and Repair.

The policy of the Council of carrying out the greater part of the repair and maintenance of their houses, with the exception of plumbing and electrical work, by direct labour was continued during the year with a staff of seven men consisting of one painter, one painter/carpenter, one joiner, two bricklayers and two labourers.

A rent increase was made on the 1st July to enable the repairs contribution to be raised from £8 to £12 per house and the increased rents ranged from 1/5d. per week for pre-war houses to 2/6d. per week for post-war houses. Subsequently it was found that this increase was insufficient to carry out repairs, external painting, etc. which were long overdue.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that re-painting, with the consequent general external repairs, should be carried out every five years if the houses are not to deteriorate. Such deterioration will result in heavy expenditure in the future and, since some of the Council's property has not been painted since 1947, it is very necessary to make provision for bringing the painting programme on to a five year cycle by some means or other.

During the year many of the repairs which had been outstanding for some-time were completed and of the major improvements carried out, the relining of 16 Airey Houses as a precaution against fire was one of the most important.

The severe frost in February caused damage to many of the houses, the repair of which cost £650 or thereabouts; work has been carried out during the year on the internal plumbing to many of the more vulnerable houses in an endeavour to mitigate frost damage in the future.

Generally speaking, and with the exception of external painting to some of the houses, the Council's property is in a fairly good state of repair. It will be necessary, however, to maintain a suitable direct labour force to keep the property in this condition and, with water supply, sewerage and housing now being carried out by this Department, the use of a suitable labour force can be integrated to the best advantage



### Slum Clearance

The carrying out of the slum clearance programme has been seriously handicapped by the lack of new houses. The demolition of property has been restricted to such houses as become vacant and can be represented as unfit before re-occupation, or where tenants from such property are re-housed by the Council in existing Council houses.

Notwithstanding the failure of the building programme, some 11 houses were dealt with during the year by demolition or closing orders and this number represents 50 per cent of that proposed under the Council's slum clearance programme approved by the Minister.

This method of dealing with sub-standard property results in a decrease in the number of units of accommodation thus forcing inhabitants of the district to find houses elsewhere. The lack of new housing accommodation and the demolition of sub-standard houses is making it especially difficult for young married couples to remain in their native parish and this fact is borne out by a reduction in the number of children in some village primary schools. It is now apparent that the labour requirements of agriculture are much lower than pre-war and that employment has, in many cases, to be sought outside the district but, with the congestion of houses in urban areas, it is thought that the village should still remain as a unit and, to keep it as such, the replacement of defective houses must be carried out.

### Re-Housing

During the year 34 lettings of Council houses were made as compared with 51 in 1955. Of these lettings 19, or 56%, were made to families recommended on public health grounds for the following reasons:-

<u>Medical</u>	<u>Overcrowding</u>	<u>Structurally Defective Houses</u>	<u>Slum Clearance</u>
2	9	5	3

Two houses were allocated specifically to tuberculosis patients.

### 3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

As from 1st April 1956 all sewers and treatment works serving Council housing sites were declared by the Council to be public sewers.

A scheme for the maintenance of all sewers and treatment works was approved and the necessary labour and transport obtained and it is anticipated that this scheme will result in obtaining better effluents and in reducing the previous amount of repair work rendered necessary through lack of attention.

Treatment works of varying sizes are now in operation at:-

Abberley	Hallow	Suckley
Alfrick	Holt	Wichenford
Broadheath	Martley	Great Witley
Clifton-on-Teme	Lower Wick	Little Witley
Cotheridge	Sapey Pitchard	



In addition, over 50 septic tanks or cesspits deal with the drainage from small Council estates.

The following alterations or additions were made during the year:-

Rushwick - The provision of sewers to a private housing estate was carried out by the developer to the Council's specification and these will be adopted as public sewers eventually.

Hallow - The provision of four additional sludge beds was completed in April and various repairs and replacements carried out to the works. These works are now producing an effluent of improved quality.

Broadheath - Tenders for constructing the main outfall sewer and part of the treatment works were approved by the Minister who, however, informed the Council that the scheme was not one in respect of which he could undertake to make a contribution. Despite strong representations to the Ministry no grant was given and it was decided that the appalling conditions at the existing small works warranted the carrying out of the scheme. Work commenced in May and by the end of the year the sewer had been completed and the construction of the treatment works was well advanced.

Clifton-on-Teme - The construction of the new treatment works was completed in May. The effluent obtained was good and, through the discharge of crude sewage on to adjoining land being discontinued, an area of good agricultural land was reclaimed.

#### Future Schemes

With the completion of Part I of the Council's scheme of mains water supply and the carrying out of Part 2 in the near future, the question of sewerage certain areas of relatively high density of houses, or where the disposal of drainage is known to be difficult, should be given early consideration. Sewerage schemes are not likely to be required in every area where mains water is provided as, owing to the low density of houses and the suitability of the soil for irrigation of effluent, septic tanks would be effective in many places. The siting of these units will be rendered easier if the pollution of well water has not to be taken into consideration.

In addition to the provision of sewerage schemes to follow the mains water supply, they are also required before the Council can proceed with further housing schemes; wherever possible it is the policy of the Council to provide schemes which will serve new housing estates together with the villages in or near which they are sited.

The following parishes either have, or will have soon, the mains water supply and are urgently in need of more houses and should be given sewerage schemes immediately:-

Grimley  
Shrawley  
Martley  
Broadwas

The order of priority has been determined by the existing conditions arising from drainage disposal.

When piped water is likely to be available new schemes in the following parishes will have to be considered and given an order of priority, namely:- Bransford, Leigh Sinton, Shelsley Beauchamp, Suckley.

In the majority of these areas the schemes should be relatively small and could be designed and installed by my department with the addition of a technical assistant. Work on the design of these schemes should be started in the near future in order that they are available for submission to the Ministry when the restriction on capital expenditure becomes less stringent.

#### House Drainage

The following new drainage installations were approved and installed during the year:-

	<u>New Houses</u>	<u>Existing Houses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Septic Tanks	17	20	37
Connections to public sewer	40	8	48
Connections to private treatment plants	16	-	16
Total	<u>73</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>101</u>

The mechanical cesspool emptier owned by Droitwich R.D.C. was hired frequently during the year; septic tanks to 42 private houses and settlement tanks to 32 treatment plants on Council housing estates were emptied during the year, in the former case the cost was re-charged to the owners or occupiers of the property.

A table showing the number of houses connected to public sewers, etc., in each parish is contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

### 4. WATER SUPPLY

#### (a) Private Supplies

No acute shortage of water to private premises occurred during the year but, in some areas, supplies became very restricted. No water was carted by the Council during this period.

109 samples from wells and springs were submitted for examination of which 51 were unsatisfactory bacteriologically and 3 were unsatisfactory chemically. Onewell was closed and 8 were repaired and cleansed.

#### (b) Council House Supplies

No shortage of water was experienced during the year from any of the small diameter boreholes supplying groups of Council houses but several boreholes have to be used very carefully as the supply from them is limited. The hardness of the water drawn from the marl necessitates frequent attention to back-boilers and hot water systems and, on some sites, corrosion of cylinders has commenced, due to electrolytic action. The provision of mains water should, to a great extent, alleviate these conditions.

#### (c) Public Supplies

Details of the number of houses supplied from public mains are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.



The major extensions, or alterations, to the supplies, made during the year were as follows:-

- (1) The purchase from Worcester City Council of the 6" main serving the parish of Hallow.
- (2) The third and final extension of the mains supply to the new private housing estate at Rushwick consisting of 380 yards of 3" diameter spun iron pipes.
- (3) 910 yards of 3" diameter spun iron pipes laid under Part I of the comprehensive water scheme at Upper Wick Lane, St. John County were taken over and charged with water from the City of Worcester supply until the Council's own supply becomes available.
- (4) Meters were installed to all business premises at Hallow and Clifton-on-Teme having a supply of mains water to bring them in line with the new scale of charges.

#### Clifton-on-Teme

The quantity of water pumped during the year from this local supply was 3,300,000 gallons as compared with 2,902,000 gallons in 1955.

The source of this supply, a spring, proved adequate throughout the year. A sample of water from this source was examined and found to be suitable for drinking purposes.

#### Comprehensive Water Scheme

Details of the progress made with Part I of this scheme are contained in the report of the Medical Officer.

Consideration was given to the preparation of Part 2 of the scheme and, having regard to the Government policy of restricting capital expenditure, the Consulting Engineer was instructed to prepare a scheme for supplying the Parishes of Abberley, Great Witley, Hillhampton, Holt and Cotheridge. It was hoped to include the remainder of the parishes in the district in Part 3 at a later date. The estimated cost of Part 2, which includes a reservoir at Abberley and booster plant at Great Witley, was £73,000.

Estimates were obtained from contractors for the tapping of the mains and the provision of communication pipes to individual properties along the mains laid in Part I of the scheme, and arrangements made for the notification to all property owners of the availability of water, charges, tapping fees etc.

Appointments were made towards the end of the year for a Waterman and a Pumping Attendant and, generally speaking, arrangements for the supply of water to consumers were well in hand by the end of the year.

The Byelaws made by the Council under Section 17 of the Water Act 1945 were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in February, 1956.



## 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING

### (a) Refuse Collection

No change in the scheme of refuse collection was made during the year and the following collections were made:-

<u>Fortnightly collection of</u> <u>all house refuse</u>		<u>Two-monthly collection of</u> <u>incombustible refuse</u>	
Parishes of:-	Broadheath Hallow Clifton-on-Teme Bransford St. John County Grimley Holt	Parishes of:-	Abberley Astley Broadwas Cotheridge Doddenham Hillhampton Kenswick Knightwick Lulsley Sapey Pitchard Shelsley Beauchamp Shelsley Kings Shelsley Walsh Shrawley Wichenford Great Witley Little Witley
Parts of Parishes of:-	Alfrick Suckley Martley Leigh	Parts of Parishes of:-	Alfrick Martley Leigh Suckley

This scheme of collection is maintained with a labour force of 5 men and two 10 cu.yd., end loading, tipping vehicles.

### (b) Refuse Storage

The Council continued to encourage the use of suitable dustbins by selling to the public at cost price plus a small delivery charge. 48 bins were sold during the year but there are still too many premises where refuse is stored in unsuitable containers which are un-hygienic and make emptying difficult.

### (c) Refuse Disposal

Difficulty is still being experienced in obtaining suitable sites for controlled tipping in the northern parishes and in the Leigh and Bransford areas and this results in high collection costs due to long haulage journeys.

A new tip was started at Hillhampton and the tip at Wichenford is likely to be filled during the coming year.

## 6. SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Ice-cream

Number of premises registered for manufacture and sale	1
Number of premises registered for sale only ... ..	49
Number of samples taken for examination... ..	1
Number of samples certified as satisfactory ... ..	1
Number of samples certified as unsatisfactory... ..	-

The plant and methods at the manufacturing premises are satisfactory and the ice-cream produced is of a high standard being heat treated and cooled before freezing. An indicating and recording thermometer is installed.

Pre-packed ice-cream only is sold from all other premises and this is contained in refrigerators; facilities for hand-washing, etc., are provided at all premises.

### Food Premises

The following food premises are in use in the district:-

#### (a) Unregistered

##### Food Shops

(a) Butchers Shops ... ..	2
(b) Other food shops ... ..	44
Cafes ... ..	4
Inns, Hotels and Public Houses ... ..	37

#### (b) Registered

Slaughter houses.. ... ..	2
Bakehouses ... ..	3
Ice-Cream manufacturers.. ... ..	1
Ice-Cream retailers ... ..	49
Dairies (under M & D Regs. 1949) ... ..	12

### Inspection of Registered Premises

The following visits and inspections of registered and other premises have been carried out during the year:-

Slaughter houses ... ..	115
Ice-cream manufacturers. ... ..	4
Ice-cream retailers ... ..	21
Dairies ... ..	14
Butchers Shops ... ..	10
Food Shops ... ..	23
Cafes ... ..	2
Bakehouses.. ... ..	2
Inns, Hotels and Public Houses ... ..	14

Generally speaking, all premises are kept clean and are provided with adequate sanitary accommodation and hand washing facilities for the employees.



### Education in Food Hygiene

Owing to the scattered nature of the district it is impracticable to attempt any courses of lectures in food hygiene. The majority of the food premises in the district are family businesses where hired assistants are not usually employed. Advice and instruction in food hygiene is given during the normal inspections of the premises where it is thought to be necessary.

### Condemned Food

During the year eight turkeys were found to be unfit for consumption owing to decomposition.

### Slaughter Houses

The two slaughter houses in operation in the district are kept in a satisfactory condition and the standard of slaughtering and quality of meat has been consistently high.

All the animals killed at the slaughter houses have been examined post-mortem and all meat found to be unfit for human consumption was surrendered voluntarily, stained and disposed of to approved dealers.

A table showing the number of animals inspected and those found to be diseased in whole or in part is contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. The absence of disease can be explained by the fact that the butchers have a local family trade only and can only buy in the best quality animals to retain that trade. The majority of the pigs killed are bred by one of the butchers on his own farm.

### Meat Grading

One slaughter house is designated as a grading centre for pigs and the Council allow the meat inspector to act as Grading Officer. In all 53 pigs have been graded this year.

### Milk Production

The duties remaining with the local authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949 were carried out and all the premises used are satisfactory.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district. 12 dairymen were issued with supplementary licences to retail designated milks, and 15 to distribute heat treated milk.

### Food and Drugs Adulteration

The responsibility for this work rests with the Worcestershire County Council.

## 7. MISCELLANEOUS

### (a) Camps and Moveable Dwellings

Regular inspections of all camping sites and sites for moveable dwellings were made and informal action only was required to keep the sites up to the standard required.

New sites for 9 caravans were licensed during the year, all of which were used for permanent accommodation.



(b) Hop-Pickers Accommodation

The weather during the hop-picking season was reasonably good and the season was relatively short in duration.

Fewer farms employed resident pickers and, where these were employed, the barracks were not fully occupied. The number of hop-picking machines in the district is now 25 and included in this number are the majority of the larger hop farms.

The condition of the living quarters generally was good and, owing to the decrease in the number of pickers, scavenging was found to be a less serious problem than formerly.

The usual nursing facilities were provided and worked smoothly. No cases of infectious disease were notified.

(c) Petroleum Act

The total number of storage licences issued during the year was 76 and the gallonage involved was 63,010.

Two new installations were approved.

(d) Rodent Control

Routine inspections of the district were carried out in the usual manner during the year and treatments made at the request of owners or occupiers of premises. Free treatments are given to dwelling houses and the charge for treating business premises is 7/6d. per hour.

The number of treatments carried out during the year was as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>					<u>Treatments</u>
(i)	Private Dwellings	...	...	...	380
(ii)	Business premises	...	...	...	44
(iii)	Local authority sewers	...	...	...	10
(iv)	Local authority refuse tips	...	...	...	20
(v)	Agricultural...	...	...	...	15
					<u>469</u>

SUPERVISION OF WORK PLACES

The following is a summary of the work carried out under this heading:-

	Registered	Inspections	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Factories with power .....	36	14	2	2
Factories with-out power	2	1	-	-
Totals	38	15	2	2

In addition two inspections were made of the premises used by outworkers in the making of gloves.